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A ONE-HORSE FARMER'S BIG SUCCESS

What Energy and Determination Will Do

(Progressive Farmer.)

The lot of the one-horse farmer, has often been referred to as a hard one, and justly so, too.

I wish to make a few statements about what can be accomplished by a one-horse farmer, when he uses his time and energies in the right way.

The first of March, 1908, I bought an old farm containing 46 3-4 acres with about 35 acres in cultivation. This farm lies fairly well, but has a thin soil with red sub-soil. It had been in the hands of tenants for many years, and was farmed principally in cotton. It was rented when I bought, so I did not get control that year, and did not get the rents either. I paid what was considered a high price for it—\$39 an acre, and the rents that year.

Some of the neighbors remarked that I had made a bad bargain, and that by hard work and good management, I might make a living off of it. There was an old six-room house, a small granary and a medium-sized barn on it; well-house also. In looks they all reminded one of Irving's description of Rip Van Winkle's buildings. The roof of the dwelling house was needing repairs, part of the weather-boarding had rotted out, all of the windows upstairs had either rotted out or were knocked out and the holes nailed shut with rough boards. The other buildings on the place looked worse than the dwelling house.

I took charge of my farm the first part of the year 1909 as a beginner in housekeeping, but was engaged in other work and did not begin on the farm until the middle of March. I had my farm paid for but did not have money enough to buy a horse or a cow.

We have now lived here about three years, and have not only made a living, but have made money to spare each year. Nearly all of the work on the farm was done by my wife and myself. We farm a mixed crop, principally wheat, oats, corn, cotton and peas and soy beans. (I like soy beans better than cowpeas for feeding cattle.)

We have tried to raise everything needed in the line of vegetables and fruits and have some to spare. We kept a good milk cow (at present we have two) and a number of chickens, which furnish us all the milk, butter and eggs needed in the house, and enough to sell to buy nearly everything needed in the house, such as groceries, clothes, shoes and a lot of furniture, including a \$30 sewing machine. From one cow we sold \$66 worth of butter in one year. The same year we sold about \$55 worth of eggs.

I have tried to improve my farm by making all the manure I could, sowing cowpeas (I also tried clover last year, but failed). I rotated my crops to the best advantage. Last winter I wanted to plow a ten-acre field better than it could be done with one horse, but my neighbors could not accommodate me with an extra horse, so I had to plow it with one. I first went one round with a turning plow, then changed plows and went around in the same furrows with another plow. It took me about twenty days to plow the field. I have done a lot of work to improve the general appearance of my farm, such as hauling off rock, digging out stumps and cleaning up hedge-rows, etc. Our mail carrier told me that I had the

best kept farm on his route. The improvements I made on my premises were not a few. Needing a place to keep my wagon, buggy and farm tools, I began on my barn by building a shed to one side of it 10x26, using the loft for roughness. I also made other improvements on it, and later I re-roofed it. Next I tore the old granary away and built another at a more convenient place. I used what lumber was good from the old building. On my house I made the following improvements: put in windows where they were out, re-roofed it, ran several new partitions, put in a number of new doors, built a pantry, painted several rooms and made a number of other minor improvements. At present I am re-weatherboarding it, and intend to paint in the near future, if nothing prevents. There were old-fashioned lightning rods up to the chimneys. I had those taken down, and used the old rods as far as they went and bought new rods for the remainder, and rodded according to the modern method of rodding. I built a corn-crib and buggy house this fall. After trying one year to keep milk and butter at the well house and finding it a hard task, went in the ground about four feet, walled it up with rock, mortared together with cement and built a spring house. It is an ideal place to keep milk and butter. It is not more than 125 yards from the house.

There was considerable cost connected with all that I named above, but I managed to pay for all with money I made off of my old farm and am practically out of debt—could have been entirely out if I had not seen fit to change horses during the time—and have not sold my cotton yet. Part of my building material I got off the farm, but all of the roofing material and lumber used on the dwelling house had to be bought.

The greater part of the work I did myself. It is not my intention to farm with one horse much longer. I am a reader of The Progressive Farmer and get many good ideas about farming out of it.

A. Q. ISENHOWER,

Newton, N. C.

Plenty of Hog and Harmony.

(Martin County Enterprise.)

Martin county has surpassed itself in the amount of "hog and hominy" raised last year. Never before have so many people made their meat and bread. Numbers of renters who have never had hogs before are salting away a goodly supply. The largest firm in town has been placing very small orders for meat, and the outlook was never so promising. Wherever peanuts are cultivated, there you will find plenty of bacon fit for the king's palace. Any industrious farmer in the county can set a table filled with good old Tar Heel fare which entirely satisfies on these days of falling mercury and sleet and snow.

How's This for Cotton.

(Southern Pines Tourist.)

From time to time the Tourist has given facts of interest in regard to Mr. J. E. Buchanan's farm. Mr. Buchanan gets into the Tourist rather frequently, not because of the Tourist's partiality for the manly gentleman, although the paper has a particularly warm feeling for him, but because he is always doing something worth writing about. The information usually has to be extracted with forceps, on account of the modesty of the man and because, he will never say anything for publication unless he has carefully verified his facts and worked the whole thing through. This adds interest and importance to what he says and does.

Mr. Buchanan had 85 1-2 acres on his Drowning Creek farm, a few miles from Southern Pines, in cotton this year. The Tourist has been waiting rather impatiently for a final report on this farm. Mr. Buchanan having estimated that it would yield a bale to the acre—and maybe a little more. Last week the office phone jingled merrily, and Mr. Buchanan announced that he was ready to report his cotton crop. This was the message: "I had 85 1-2 acres in cotton, and there have been taken from it 101 bales of cotton weighing 500 pounds each. Good-bye."

The significant thing about this report is that it records not one acre, carefully nursed to make a big yield, but a whole farm and a sustained cropage of considerably more than a bale to the acre.

A Big Corn Yield.

(Southern Pines Tourist.)

Mr. L. McL. McKeithan is one of Cameron's best farmers, and takes nobody's dust when it comes to raising corn year after year. This year Mr. McKeithan tried a demonstration acre and takes his place with the top-notchers. His land is sandy, with a light clay subsoil. It has been worked from six to twenty years, some of it being old and some fairly fresh.

His demonstration acre was broken in December, ten inches deep. On May 10th he planted Biggs' Prolific in rows five feet apart and eighteen inches in the drill. He did not cultivate as frequently as is usual with the demonstration people, three or four shallow cultivations being the extent of his work in this line. His fertilization was about the usual amount—five or six hundred pounds to the acre, with a little nitrate as a finisher. On this demonstration acre Mr. McKeithan made 76 bushels of shelled corn.

Altogether, Mr. McKeithan had 11 1/2 acres in corn, and on this tract he made 600 bushels of shelled corn, or a trifle better than 54 1-2 bushels to the acre, which is a very fine showing for a fairly large area. Raising a big lot of corn on a single acre is a fine thing, and shows what may be done on many acres; but a high average on a large number of acres means more and counts more heavily in showing the way to others.

Ten Things to do in January.

1. Decide just what line of farming you wish to follow and then prepare for it; plan a rotation providing for food and feed crops as well as for sale crops.
 2. Take an inventory; see what you are worth; find out what you have on hand that you do not need and arrange to dispose of it; find out what you need in the way of equipment for economical farming and arrange to get it if possible.
 3. Clean up and repair all machinery ready for work; if any is out in the weather, go right now and put it under shelter.
 4. Look after the live stock and poultry to see that they are comfortable and doing well; be sure especially that there are no lice on either.
 5. Keep the plows going; drain wet lands; take steps to prevent hill lands from washing.
 6. Clear out the stumps, bushes and briars; get rid of needless ditches and terrace banks.
 7. Start the garden; give it a coat of manure and plant the early hardy crops.
 8. Take care of the manure; get it out on the fields as early as possible.
 9. Make a special study of the care of livestock, and arrange to raise animals of better quality this year.
 10. Get a book on fertilizers and soil fertility and study this matter just as a boy studies a lesson in school; it will be as profitable work as you ever did.
- (Prof. Massey, in Progressive Farmer.)

Eighty Seven Bushels on an Acre

(Southern Pines Tourist.)

The men who raised more corn on a single measured acre this year than Mr. U. O. Seawell are not many. His land is the yellow sand-clay mixture that frequently is found in this section, and on which some very good yields of corn and cotton have been secured.

The ground was broken in the fall and rye was sowed for a cover crop. In May the land was plowed ten inches deep. The rows were four feet apart, and the distance between the hills—in the drill—was from twelve to fourteen inches. The details of fertilization and cultivation are not at hand, but Mr. Seawell made 87 bushels of shelled corn on this measured acre, which places him among the first half-dozen on Mr. McLean's list of demonstration farmers.

Seed do Not Run Out.

(Franklin Press.)

"Uncle Billy" McKee left in the Press office last week six ears of fine corn, the seed of which he has used for forty-one years in succession, thus

disproving the old theory that seed will run out and that you can't run the same ground in the same crop for several successive years without a complete failure. Uncle Billy says if you prepare the soil right you'll have no trouble. He made this year fourteen wagon loads to the acre off of this corn, but didn't shuck or measure. He says next year this corn will be the inner corn of Macon county. It weighs 66 pounds to the bushel.

Cotton in the Fields.

(Roanoke-Chowan Times.)

There are several cotton fields in the vicinity of Rich Square that are still white with cotton, and some that have not been picked over during the season, but over 95 per cent of the crop is housed, though over half of it was damaged in the fields. We hear of some of our farmers offering to sell their farms, so that they may move to other parts of the country, and it has been suggested that they want to go where the lands are less productive so they will not make more than they can house.

Some Good Farming

(Smithfield Herald.)

Mr. Hassell Blackman of Meadow Township, was here last week and renewed his subscription. He had killed and sold most of twenty-two hogs and has twenty-four more to kill. He expects five thousand pounds of pork from the hogs yet to be killed. The past year he had only two acres in cotton and picked four bales from them. On twelve acres of corn he made a hundred and twenty barrels of five bushels each. The corn he cuts every year and it is shredded into stover for cattle. The five acres of oats planted last year yielded forty-five bushels per acre. Wheat is raised every year for home use and for sale. Mr. Blackman says it has been nearly five years since he bought any flour. On a 2-horse farm his guano bill was only \$226.96. With his system of farming he has also an abundance of rough feed such as peanut and pea vine hay and corn stover. He is one of the best farmers of the county and is doing the kind of farming many more should do.

Rabbit Shipments

(Siler City Grit.)

The shipment of rabbits from Siler City for the week ending November 7th was 887. For week ending November 14th, 3,323. For week ending November 21st, 3,024. For week ending November 28th, 2,822. For week ending December 5th, 3,186. For week ending December 12th, 2,389. For week ending December 19th, 1,334. For week ending December 26th, 1,257. For week ending January 2d, 2,463. For week ending January 9th, 561. Total to date, 21,246. The partridge season opened November 15th. The shipments are: For week ending November 21st, 1,212. For week ending November 28th, 1,384. For week ending December 5th, 1,741. For week ending December 12th, 1,389. For week ending December 19th, 978. For week ending December 26th, 1,088. For week ending January 2d, 1,697. For week ending January 9th, 1,348.

Cabaras Farmers Cultivating Sheep.

(Mooresville Enterprise.)

Within recent months several well-to-do farmers of this part of North Carolina have ventured into the sheep-raising business, and the latest to be enlisted in the industry is Col. J. Robert Wallace, of Eastfield, Cabarrus county. Mr. Wallace has on his plantation a flock of 100 of the prettiest sheep ever seen in North Carolina, and his success with the fleece-growing animals is being watched with keen interest by quite a large number of our people. Colonel Wallace is determined to give the industry a fair trial, and if he is successful, it will probably pave the way for others to make the venture.

Mr. M. F. Teeter, also of Cabarrus, started a sheep ranch near Harrisburg about a year ago, but on account of having secured a flock of diseased sheep to begin with, he was compelled to abandon his experiments and dispose of the animals in his possession. He has an abiding faith in the industry, however, and will again invest in another flock in the future.